POL 23-9 Libya 57

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET 463

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01, EUR-17, CIAE-00, DODE-00, JPM-04, H-02, INR-07, L-03, NSAE-00,
NSC-10, P-03, RSC-01, PRS-01, SS-20, USIA-12, AID-28, PC-04, O-02, OPR-02,
OC-06, CCO-00, E-15, DOT-12, INT-06, RSR-01, /175 W

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 12 JUL 1982
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS [ ]
DECLASSIFIED [ ] RELEASABLE [X]
RELEASE DENIED [ ]
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R 021958Z SEP 69
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4608
INFO AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 2145

(1) 1. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, SEVERAL FAINT CLUES HAVE DEVELOPED WITHIN PAST 24 HOURS WHICH INDICATE THAT FOCAL POINL OF RCC'S POWER MAY BE BENGHAZI AND NOT TRIPOLI OR BAIDA. INDICATORS, WHICH ARE ADMITTEDLY SLIM, ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. DISTRIBUTION OF MESSAGE FROM RCC TO FOREIGN MISSIONS RE BASIS FOR REVOLUTION AND INTENTIONS OF REGIME WAS MADE INITIALLY LAST NIGHT IN BENGHAZI AND ONLY TODAY IN TRIPOLI.

B. DURING VISIT TO RCC HEADQUARTERS AT RADIO LIBYA, TRIPOLI, ONE OF RCC MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES OF COMPANY GRADE RANK WAS OVERHEARD SPEAKING TO SOMEONE IN BENGHAZI IN TONE WHICH CLEARLY INDICATED CONVERSATION WAS WITH SUPERIOR OFFICER.

C. TODAY, WHILE I AND DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WERE AT RCC TRIPOLI OFFICE, CALL WAS RECEIVED FROM BENGHAZI BY LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES REQUESTING COMMENTS ON STATEMENT WHICH WAS TO BE MADE ON 1730 NEWS BROADCAST.

D. WHEN WE ASKED TODAY RE POSSIBILITY OF RESTORATION AIR-PLANE FLIGHTS TO OIL FIELDS FOR SUPPLY PURPOSES, WE WERE TOLD

SECRET

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BY RCC REPRESENTATIVE THAT DECISION TO CLOSE AIRFIELDS HAD BEEN MADE IN BENGHAZI.BLAKE

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